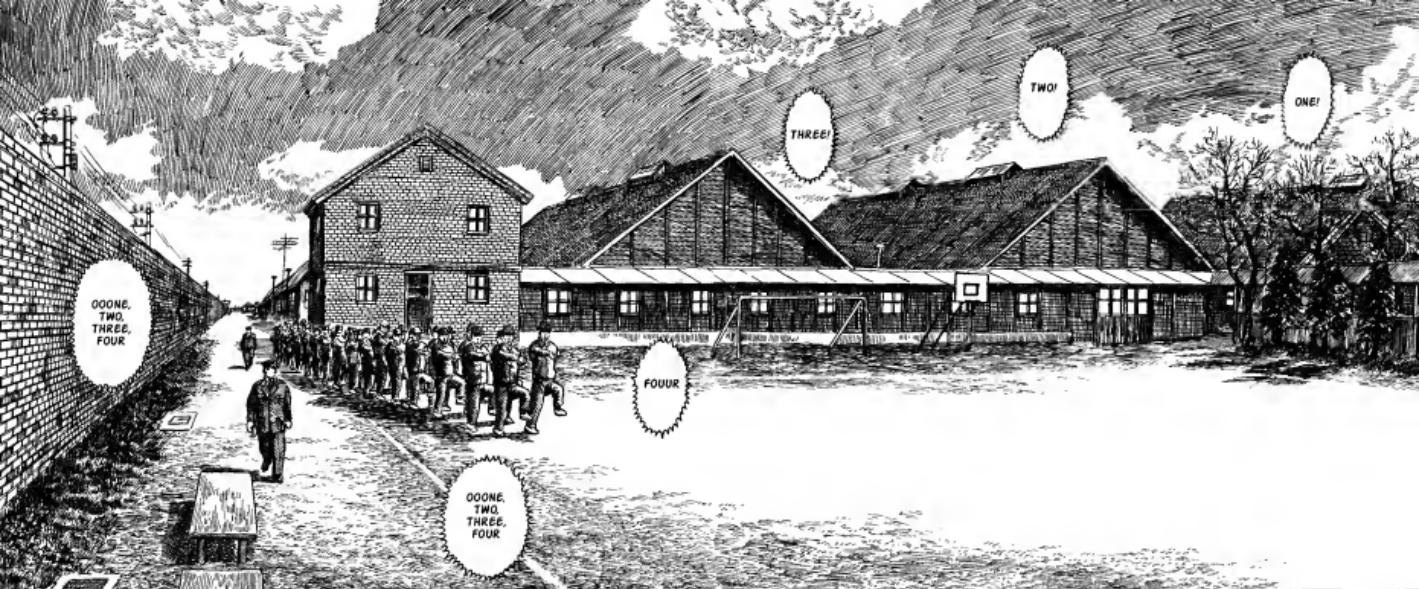


A JOYOUS NEW YEAR

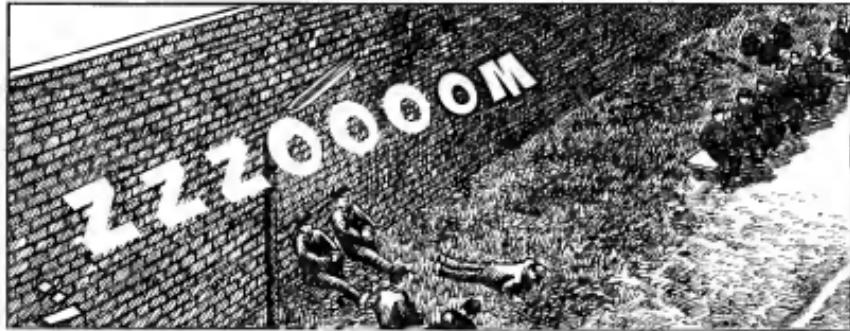






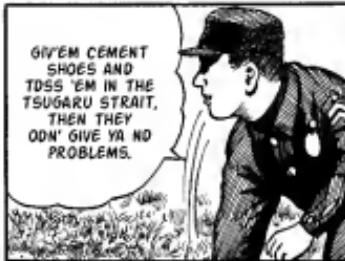
-NO NICOTINE IS
PERMITTED DURING THE BREAK
IN THE PRISON YARD-

-THE LIGHT INSIDE THE
WALLS IS THE SAME LIGHT AS
ON THE WALL'S OTHER SIDE-



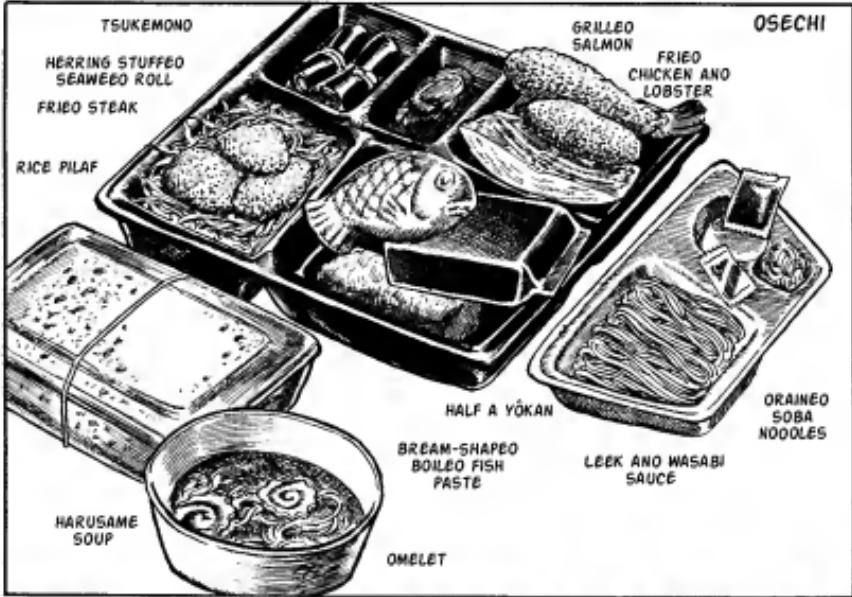








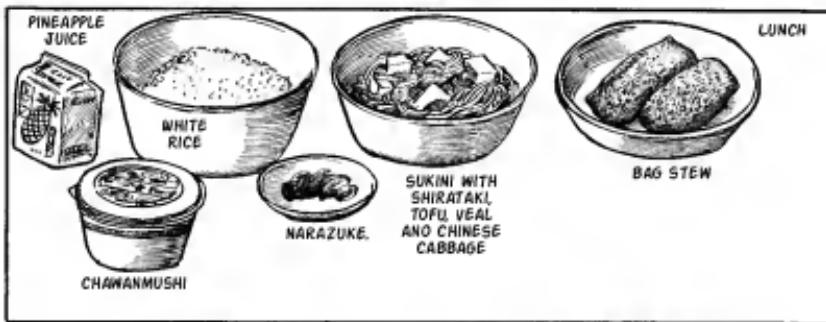
*TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR DISHES

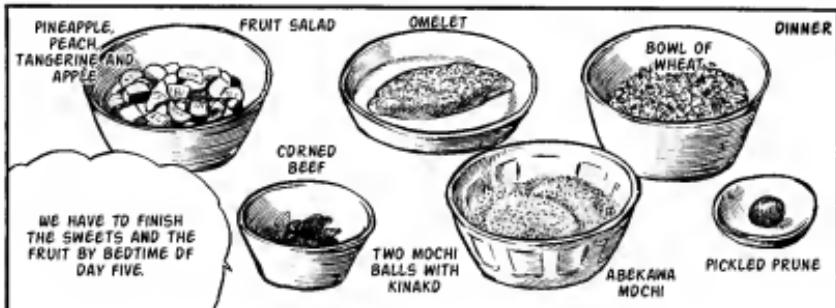
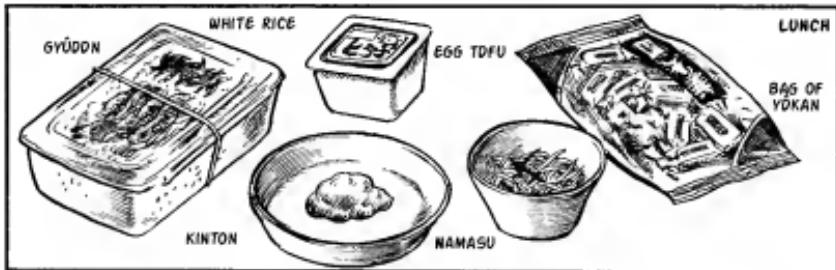
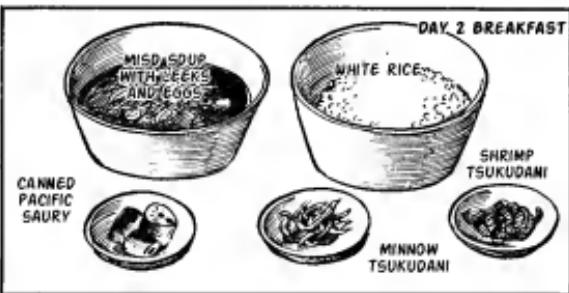
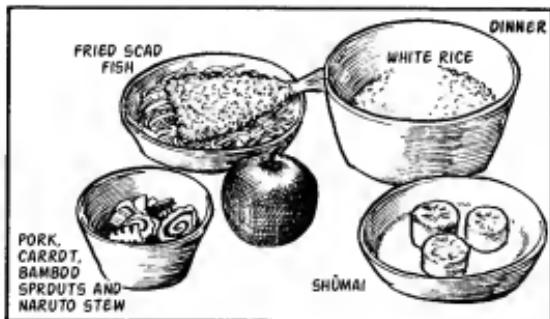


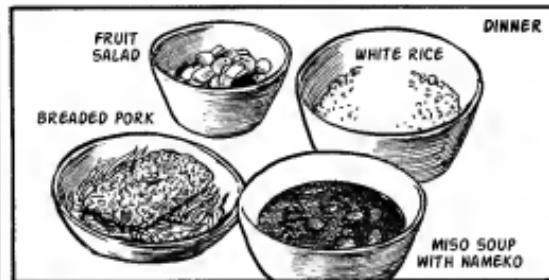
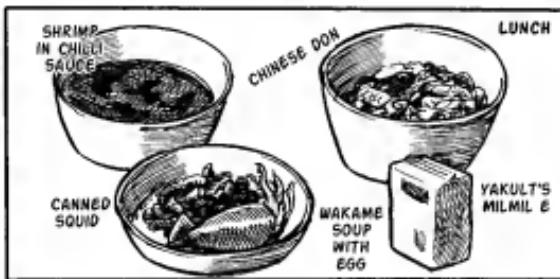
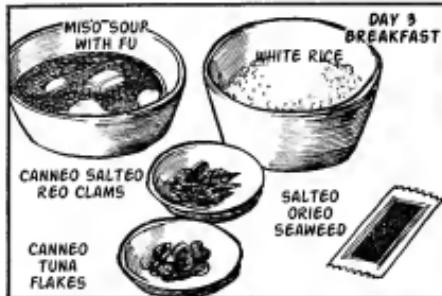
BREAKFAST ON THE FIRST DAY
OF THE NEW YEAR.



OUR BELLIES'RE
GONNA
ACHE FROM
OVEREATIN' ON
NEW YEAR'S EVE









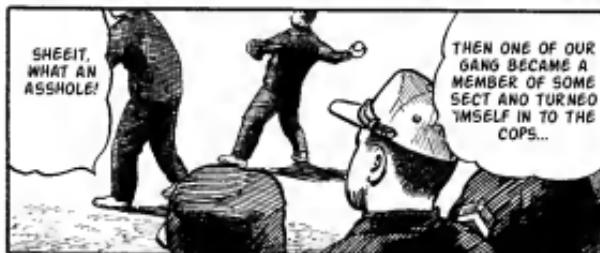


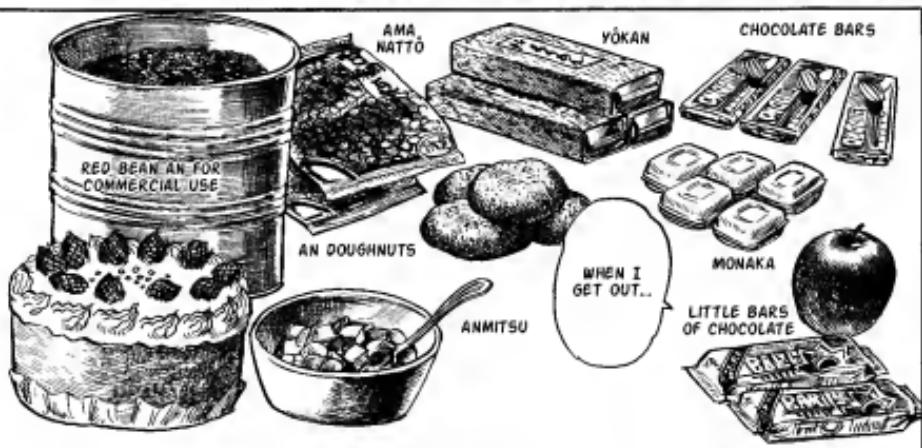
Z-Z-ZOOM





WELL, HIS EYES WERE PLEASED WITH US TO GET IT OVER AND DONE WITH.







I SET ALL THESE THINGS ON THE TABLE AND SPEND ALL DAY EATING THEM AND...



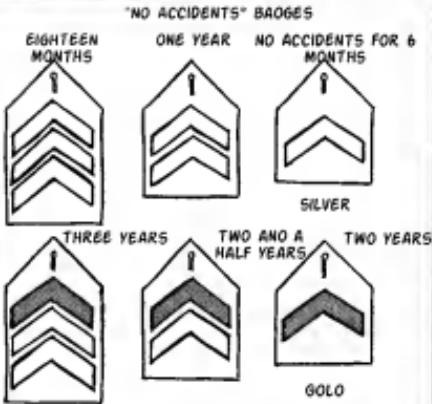
HEH HEH HEH, HE'S GLUM AS EVER.



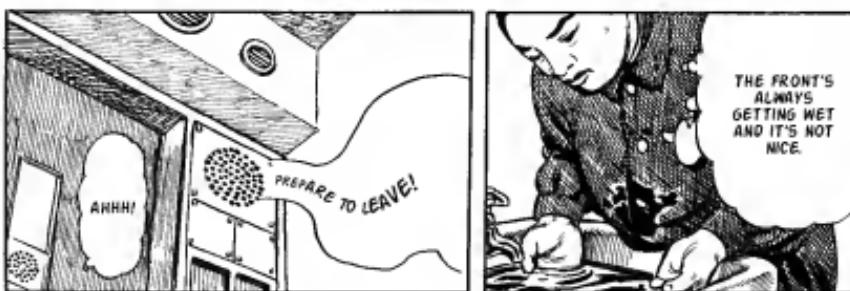
NEXT TIME, WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT TO GETCHA, RUN AWAY AS FAST AS YOU CAN, YOU'LL BE SAFE.



NAH.



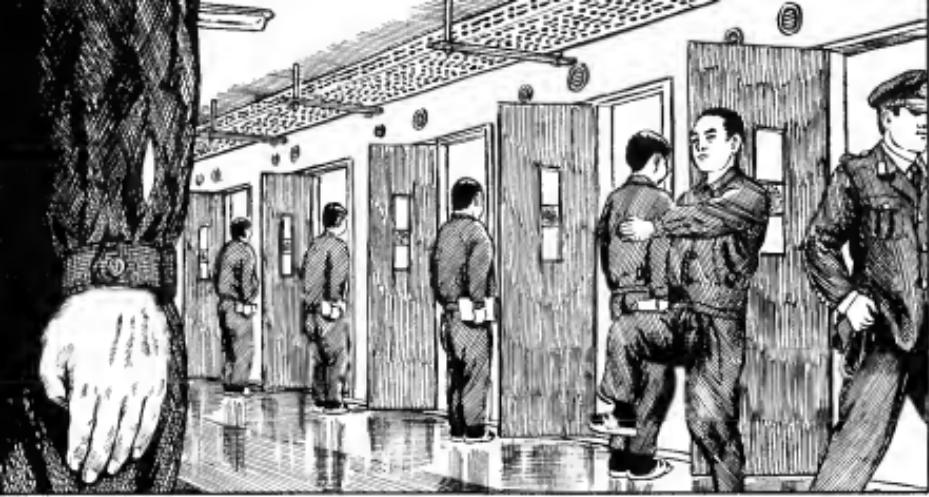






A WINTER'S DAY













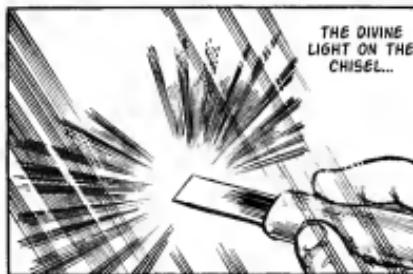
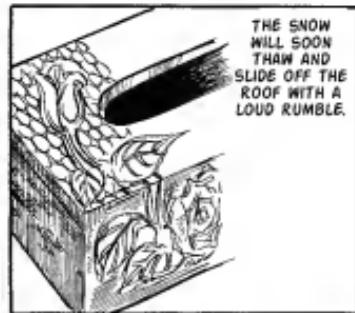
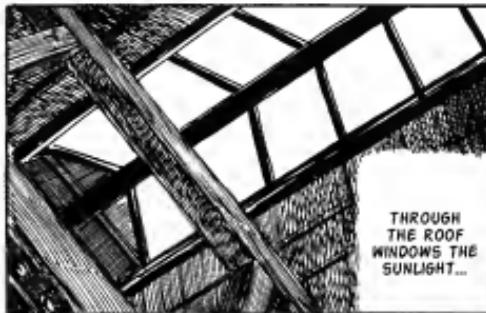




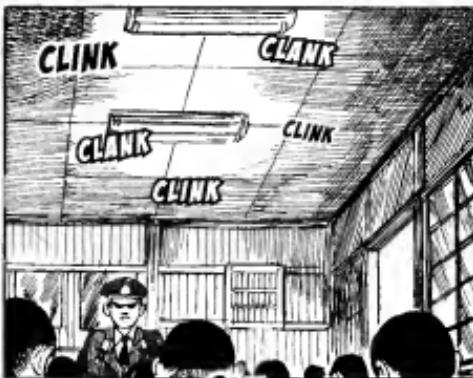


* TODAY'S WASH UNDERPANTS TEE-SHIRTS

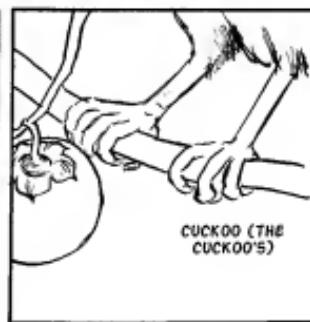
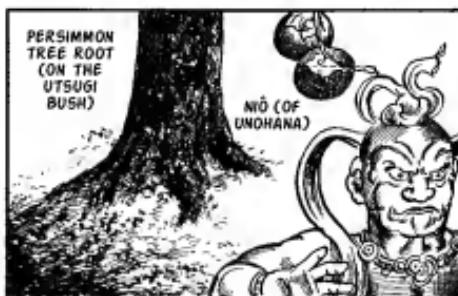






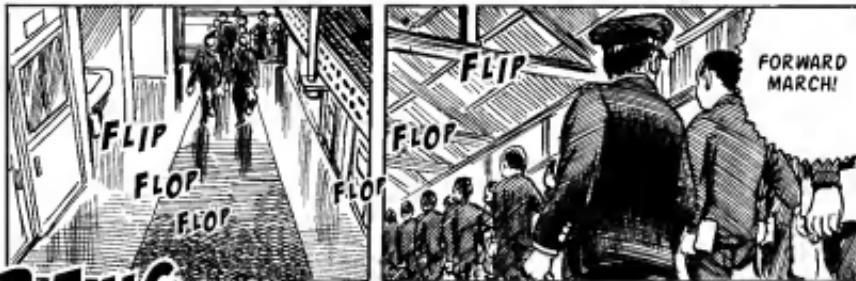


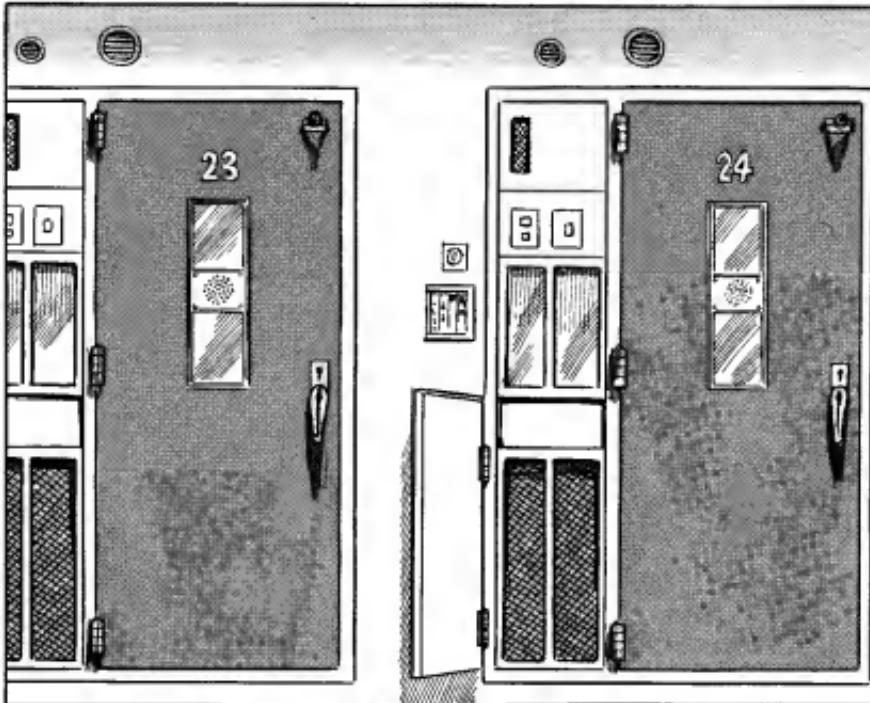
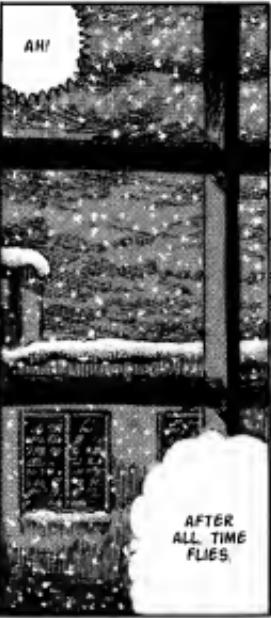




*HERE THRU PAGE MR. HANAMI PLAYS ON WORD SOUNDS FROM THE NURSERY SONG "NATSU WA KINU" (SUMMER HAS COME) IN PARENTHESES.

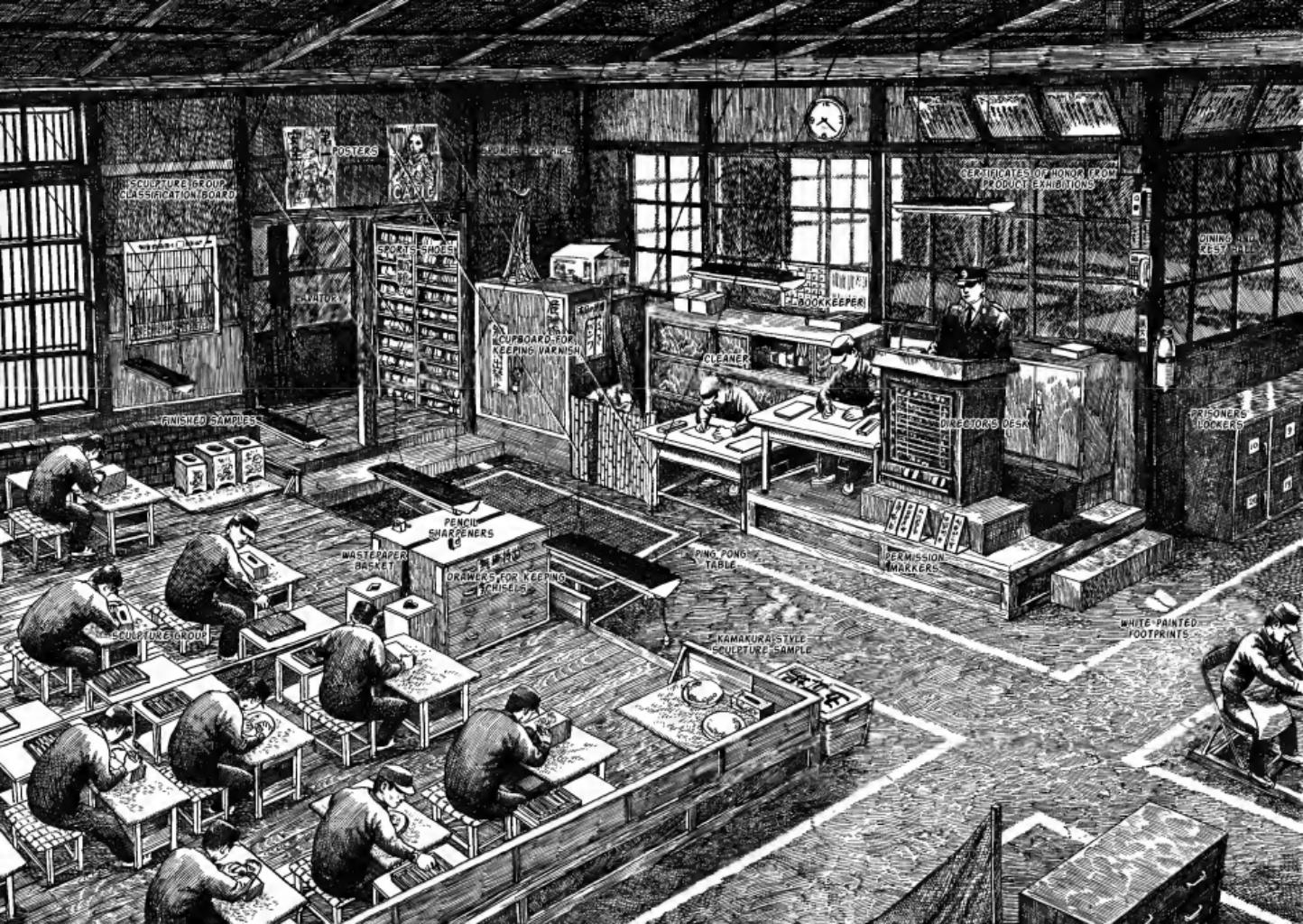


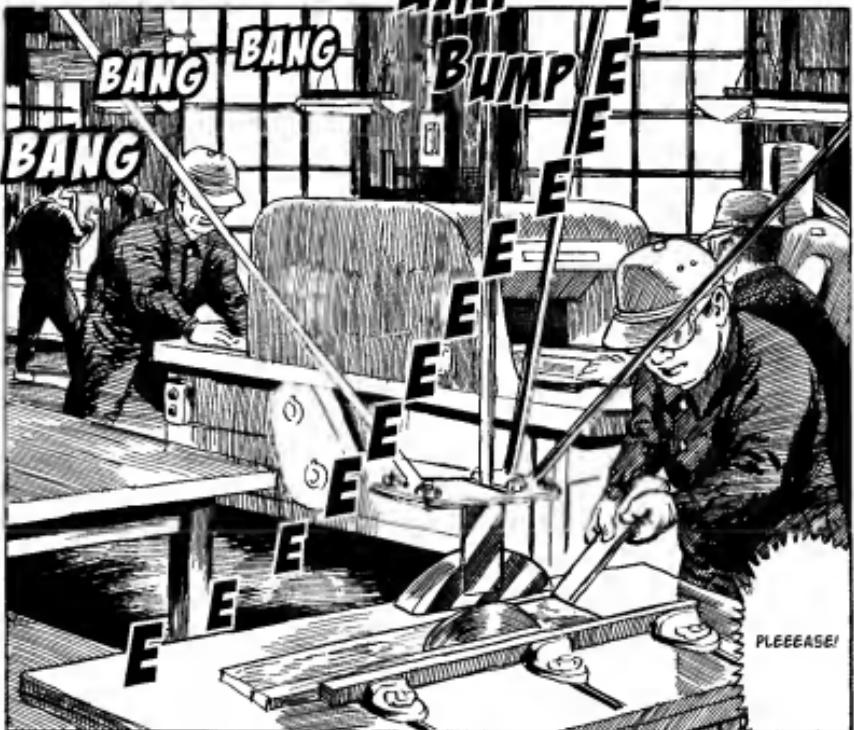




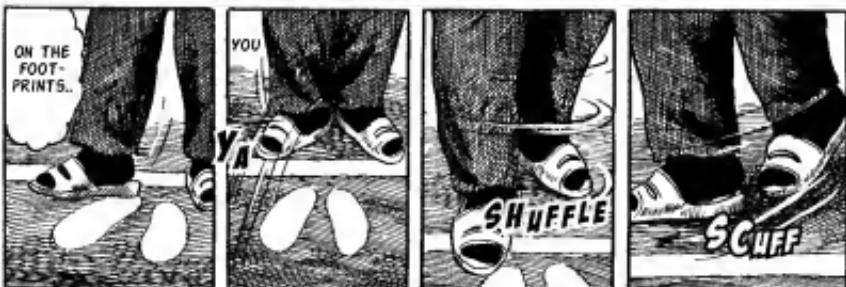
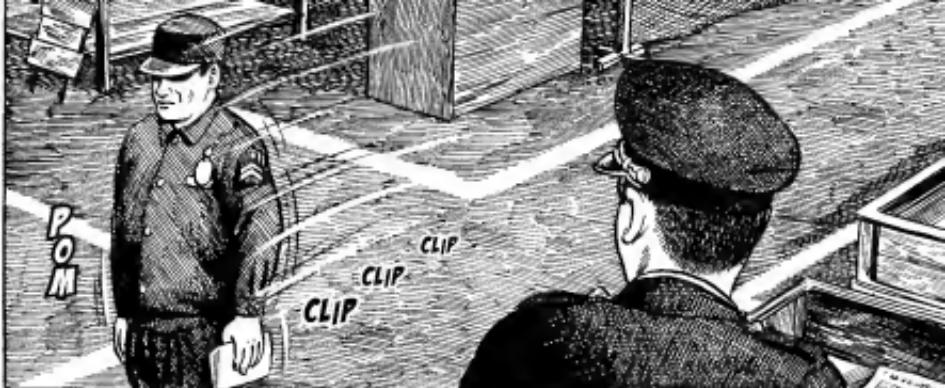


**THE
PLEADING
WALL**

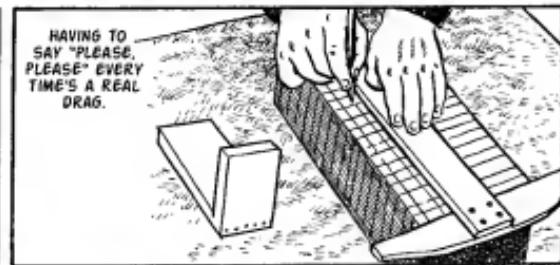




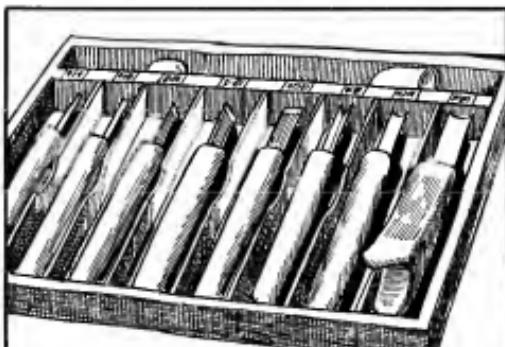


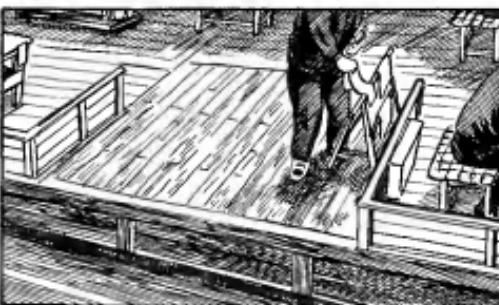
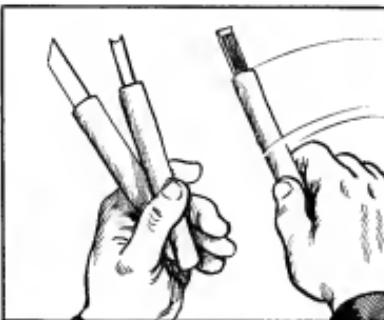
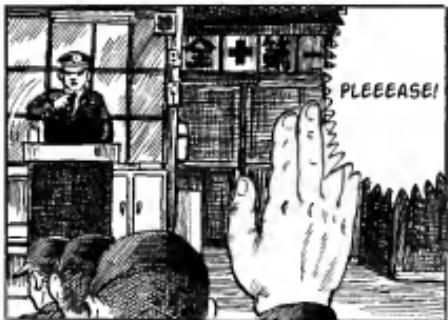


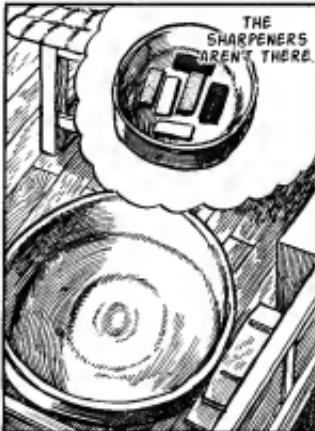


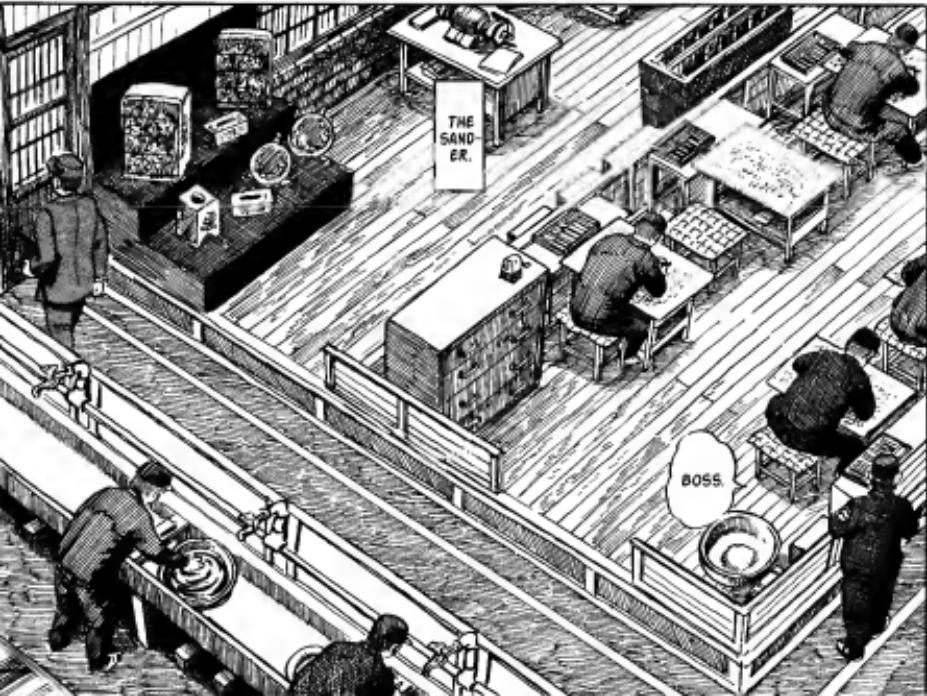










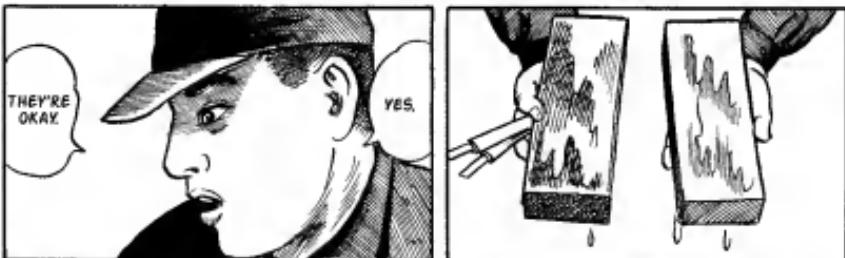


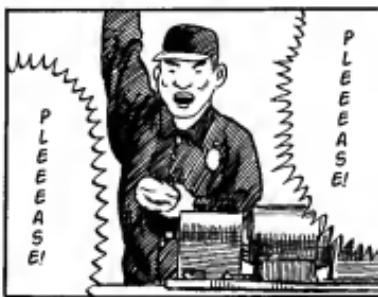
THE WHOLE SURFACE MUST BE USED SO IT
DOESN'T WEAR IN JUST ONE PLACE.

X

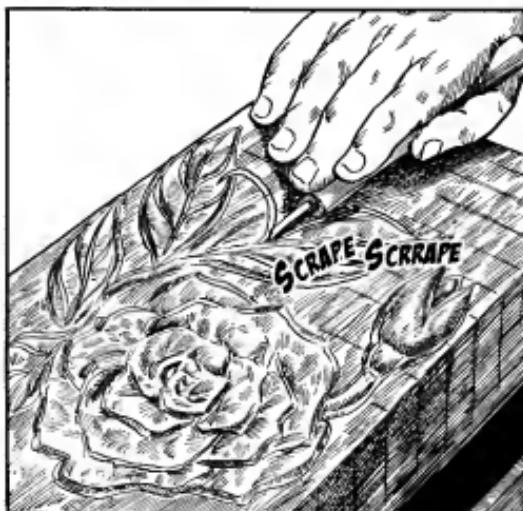


INSPECTION OF
THE SANDERS
PLEASE.





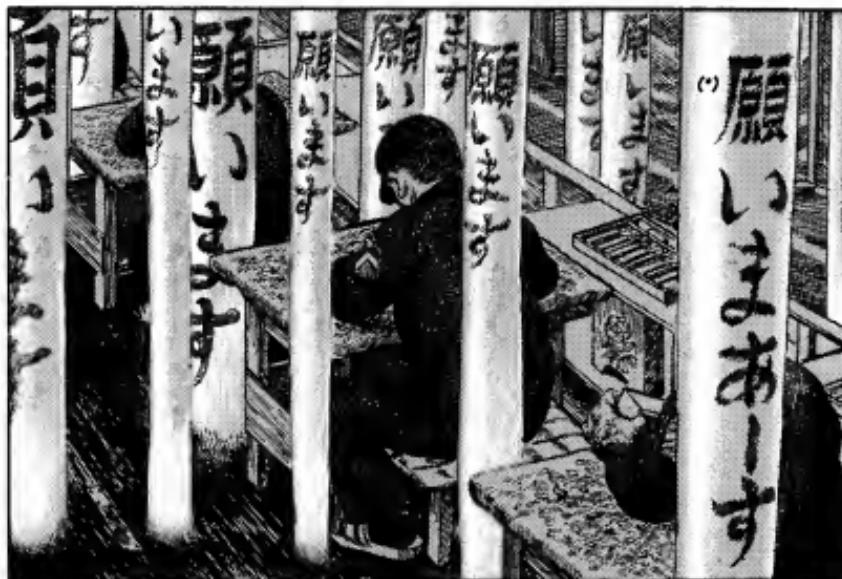


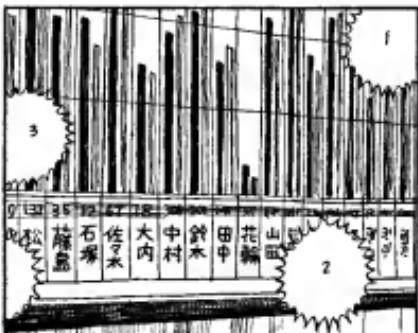




I CAN'T DO IT
BECAUSE I JUST
HATE HAVING TO
SAY "PLEASE".

AAAAA, I GIVE
UP! I GIVE UP!
I'M GOING TO
FORGET ABOUT
FILED TODAY!





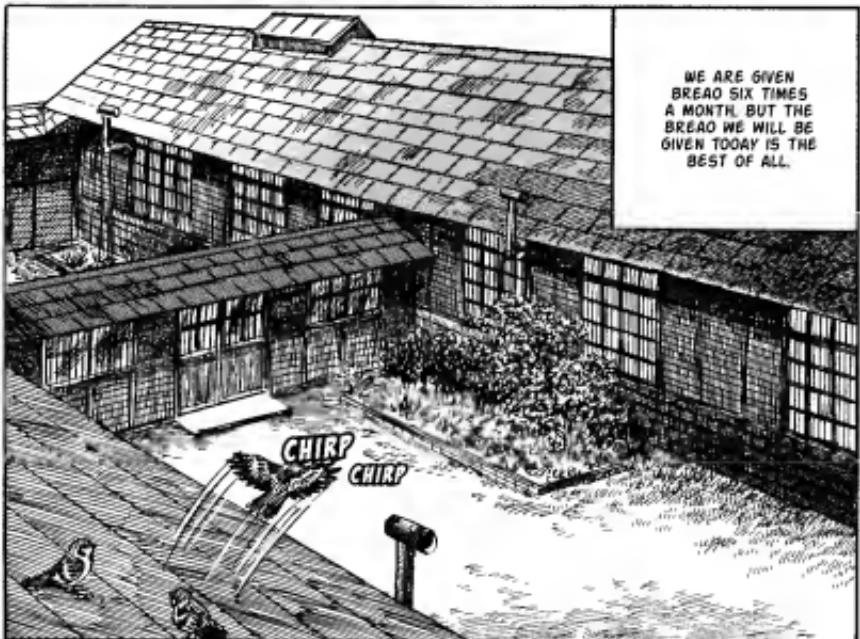


**THE FOOD IS GOING
TO BANKRUPT JAPAN**



TODAY WE'RE GOING
TO GET BREAD. ALL
OF US'VE BEEN
COUNTING THE DAYS
ON OUR FINGERS.
IT'S A HAPPY DAY.





朝 ③ミソ汁 嘴

067

1日	②ガラ煮	味噌湯、ごはんかけ、モチ米	トマトトマト炒め、オムレツ
2月10日	春豆 ラタグ・シーフード	コロナギ・鶏肉	豆乳肉とチーズ、黒胡椒玉子炒め
3日	モヤシ添えアヒージョ	スパゲッティ・サルサ・味噌	マサニーナ入りトマト炒め
4月10日	玉子炒め①小茄子・厚揚げ	玉ねぎ・イカ墨・玉子炒め	トマト玉ねぎのソース炒め
5月	味噌ラーメン 沖縄そば①	トマト・豚肉・味噌	トマト炒め、あさし・牛丼・ごはん
6月	モヤシ煮、豆腐、油揚げ	トマト・豆腐・味噌	モヤシ炒め、玉ねぎ・モチ米
7月	萬能豆干④味噌味	萬能豆干・味噌味	トマト炒め、イカ・モルタル炒め
8月	大根油漬け②	モヤシ、ウインナー	モヤシ、ウインナー炒め
9月	玉子炒め②ワカメ	中国風玉子炒め、ソーセージ	牛丼・味噌ラーメン・ごはん
10月	カツレツ小松菜・厚揚げ	豚肉・味噌	フレイバーベイク、味噌ラーメン・玉子ユーフ
11月	味噌カツ・味噌味	カツレツ・味噌ラーメン	味噌ラーメン、味噌ラーメン
12月	ナッシュリ・味噌味	あんかけ・ピザ	味噌前菜、味噌ラーメン
13日	モヤシ・味噌味	チキン・味噌味	国産唐揚げ・味噌ラーメン
14日	玉子炒め・味噌味	モヤシ・味噌味	干かしいれ・五目野菜・豚汁
15日	玉子炒め・味噌味	フタノリ・味噌味	玉子炒め・味噌ラーメン
16月11日	セリの炒め物・味噌味	小高島・味噌味	中国風豆味噌ラーメン・味噌ラーメン
17日	人見ごはん子の肉豆	牛丼・味噌味	フレンチトマト・味噌ラーメン
18日	ほんじの枝豆胡麻	人見ごはん子の味噌味	味噌湯・白身魚の味噌ラーメン
19日	味噌カツ	ナッシュリ・味噌味	まごめん・味噌ラーメン
20金 19日	味噌水煮豆	ナッシュリ・味噌味	じがめ・味噌ラーメン
21日	長芋上り②味噌味	ニンジン・味噌味	ローリー・味噌ラーメン
22日	味噌カツ	肉・味噌味	玉ねぎ・味噌味
23月19日	味噌カツ	豚肉・味噌味	筑前煮・小倉豆、玉子スープ
24日	味噌カツ・味噌味	豚肉・味噌味	ヒビン・牛丼味噌・味噌ソース
25日	味噌カツ・味噌味	豚肉・味噌味	甘川味付豚肩・味噌ラーメン
26日	味噌カツ・味噌味	豚肉・味噌味	あかね味噌・牛丼味噌
27月19日	味噌カツ・味噌味	豚肉・味噌味	ソシツ味噌・味噌ラーメン
28日	味噌カツ・味噌味	味噌ラーメン	アヒン・味噌ラーメン
29日	味噌カツ・味噌味	味噌ラーメン	味噌ラーメン・味噌ラーメン
30月	味噌カツ・味噌味	味噌ラーメン	味噌ラーメン・味噌ラーメン

DAY 2
STEWED BEANS, SALAD,
JAM, CHEESE.

STEW



FRIED EGG



COLE SLAW



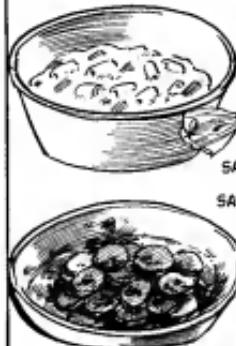
JAM COFFEE

DAY 20



DAY 9

SCALLOPED POTATOES



SAUTÉED FISH SAUSAGES



COCOA

JAM

DAY 27



STEWED BEANS,
SALAD, MILK

CHEESE
JAM

DAY 25



SAUTEED SAUSAGES,
JAM, CORN SOUP

FUYOHAI *

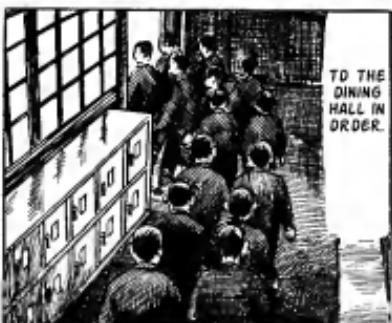
*TYPE OF OMELETTE



HAAAALT WORK!
FALL IN LINE!



SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH



TO THE
DINING
HALL IN
ORDER.



AAAH...

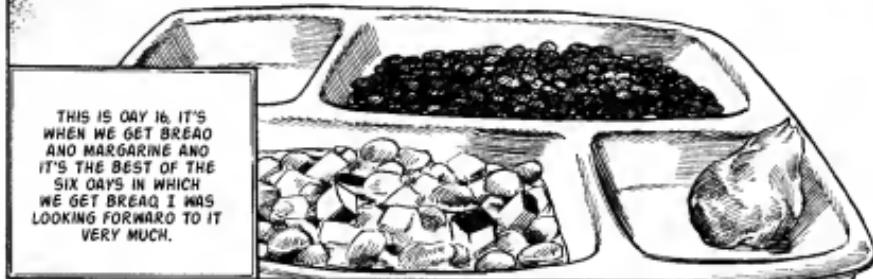


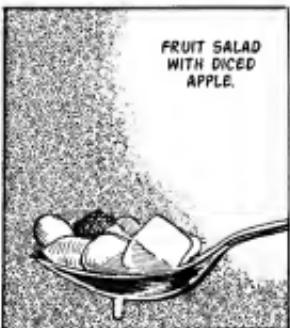
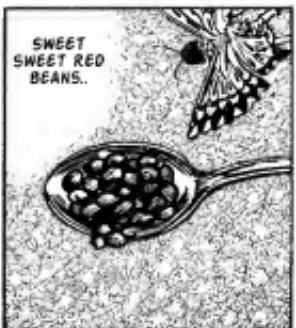
SCCRAPe
SCCRAPe

JAPANESE FAIRIES, BORN
OF THE SWEET SMELL
OF FRUIT, FLIT OVER THE
MARGARINE, SHINY WITH
OIL, AND THE REO BEANS

THE SWEET SMELL
OF FRUIT SALAO FILLS
THE ENTIRE HALL.

THIS IS DAY 16. IT'S
WHEN WE GET BREAD
AND MARGARINE AND
IT'S THE BEST OF THE
SIX DAYS IN WHICH
WE GET BREAD I WAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
VERY MUCH.

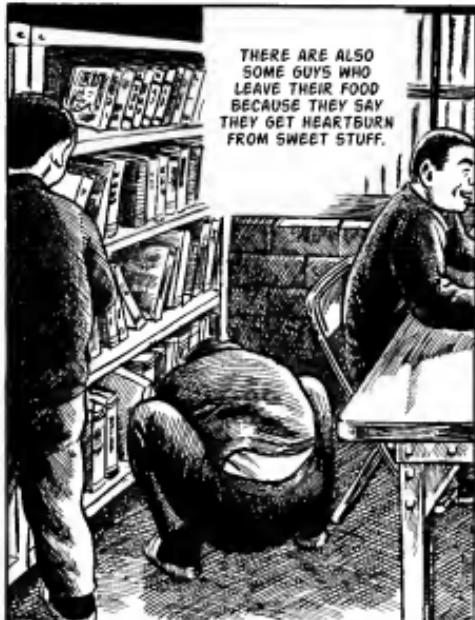




IT WAS A HUNDRED OR A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER. THERE ARE NO WORDS FOR IT, NOT EVEN HEROINE CAN COMPARE...



SOMEONE SAYS THAT IF YOU STIR THE MARGARINE INTO THE BEANS THEY TASTE EVEN BETTER.



THERE ARE ALSO SOME GUYS WHO LEAVE THEIR FOOD BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY GET HEARTBURN FROM SWEET STUFF.



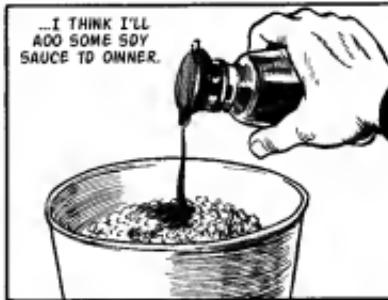
THE MILK IS GOOD TOO, IT'S LIKE YOUR BRAIN TURNS WHITE ... BUT, HOW CAN SUCH HUMBLE FARE BE SO RICH?





OUTSIDE HIS WIFE AND SON ARE WAITING
FOR HIM AND EACH DAY FEELS LIKE A
THOUSAND AUTUMNS... IF HE'S CAUGHT
THEY'LL CANCEL HIS PAROLE... HE'LL END
UP WITH BIG PROBLEMS...



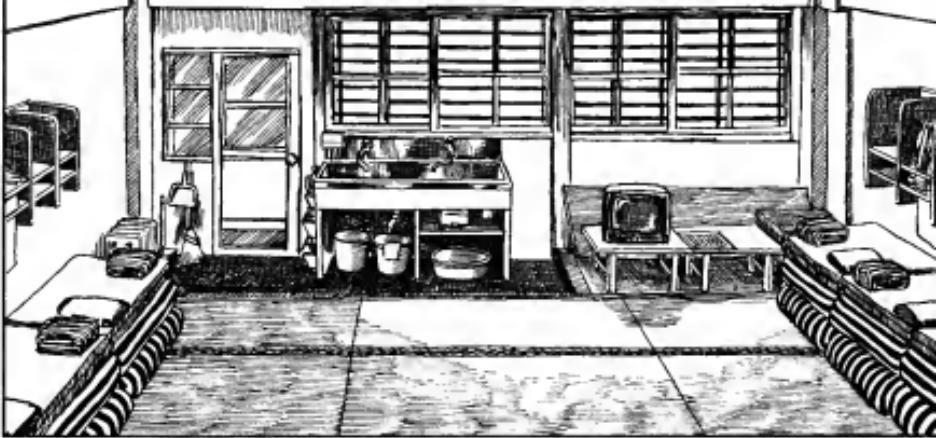


EVERY SIX MONTHS
ALL INMATES IN ALL
THE BUILDINGS ARE
TRANSFERRED FROM
THEIR CELLS.

FLASHES FROM THE PEN

WHEN WE LEFT FOR THE
FACTORY WE'D LEAVE OUR
PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND
BOOKS WRAPPED IN A BLANKET
NEXT TO THE FUTON AND THEY'D
BE IN THE NEW CELL WHEN WE
RETURNED THAT EVENING.

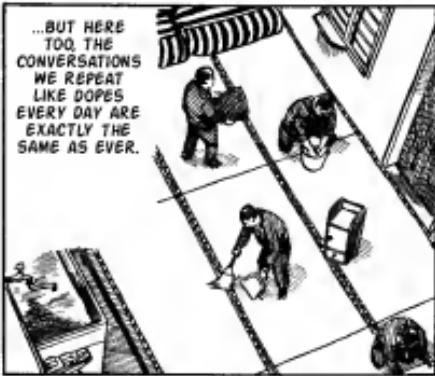
WE EXCHANGED CELLS WITH
THOSE ACROSS THE HALL.



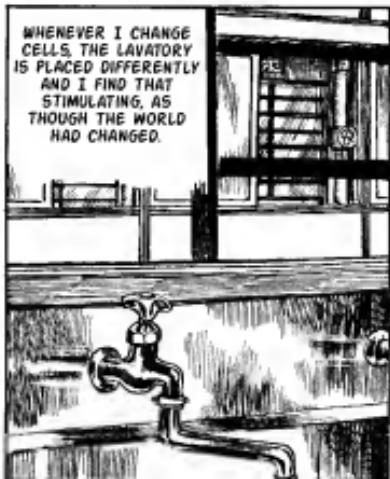
THE WINDOWS IN
THIS CELL WEREN'T
BOARDED UP SO
YOU COULD SEE THE
BUILDING JUST BEYOND
THE YARD VERY
CLEARLY.



...BUT HERE
TOO, THE
CONVERSATIONS
WE REPEAT
LIKE DOPES
EVERY DAY ARE
EXACTLY THE
SAME AS EVER.



WHENEVER I CHANGE
CELLS, THE LAVATORY
IS PLACED DIFFERENTLY
AND I FIND THAT
STIMULATING, AS
THOUGH THE WORLD
HAD CHANGED.





AS A DROP OF DEW ON
A BLADE I CAME, LIKE A
DROP OF DEW I AM ABOUT
TO GO. EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENED IN THE CAPITAL
NOW SEEMS LIKE A DREAM
WITHIN A DREAM.*



*TANKA POEM BY SHOSUM
TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI 1536-1598

HOW I
ENVY
YOU...

WE SPOKE ABOUT
THIS SUBJECT
EVERY SINGLE
MORNING TILL WE
WERE BORED TO
TEARS DISCUSSING
WHOSE BATTERIES
WERE GOOD OR
BAD OR IF THEY
LASTED LONGER, IF
YOUR BEARD WAS
SPARSE OR...

THAT'S
WHY...

Click

OUTSIDE IS
FAR, FAR
AWAY.



Zip

Zip

WE DIDN'T WATCH
THE NEWS
OR HAVE ANY
INTEREST IN
WATCHING THEM.

BOOM

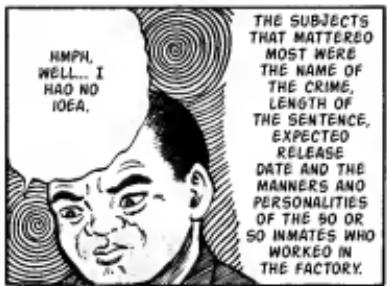
WE'RE
REPORTING ON
THE HOSTAGE
CRISIS AT THE
JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE.*
THE PERUVIAN
GOVERNMENT
HAS ORDERED
A RAID
BY CRACK
COMMANDOS...

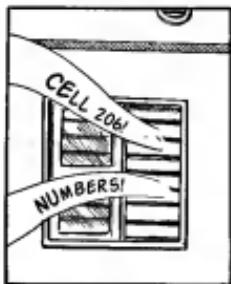
*DEC 17 '76 - APRIL 22 '77

STUPID
OF HIM,
EH?

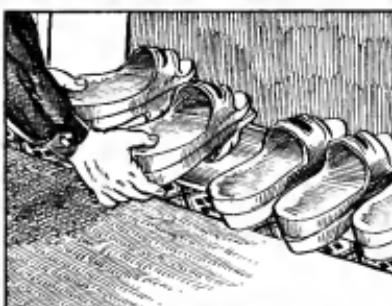
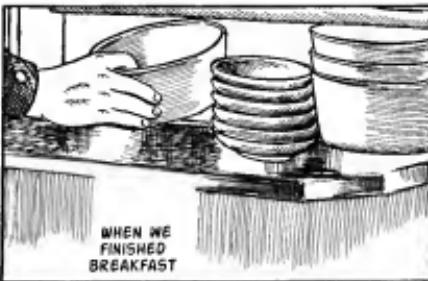
HE WAS FOLLOWED ALL
OVER BY HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS AND THEY
CAUGHT HIM AS HE
ENTERED THE
AUDITORIUM.

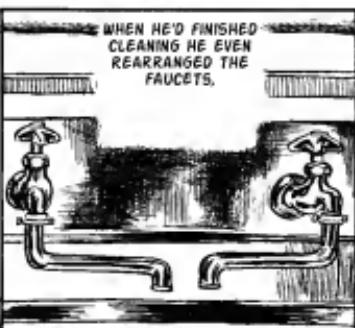
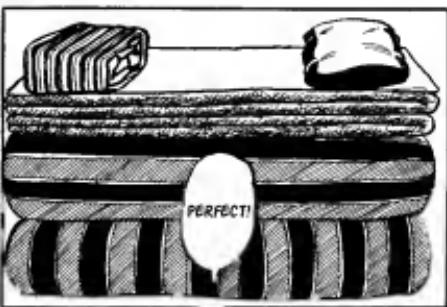
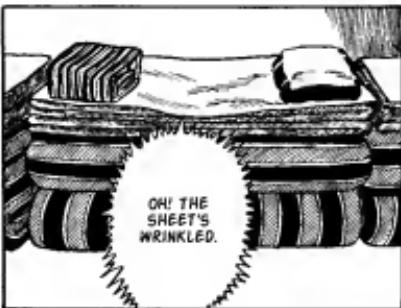
FOR THE
INMATES,
THE FACTORY
IS THEIR
"COMMUNITY".











TEA THERMOS.
WHEN THEY RETURN
4 PM. IT'S FULL.

THEY HAVE
BATHS EVERY
COUPLE OF DAYS.
THEY WRAP
THE SHAMPOO
IN A TOWEL
AND CARRY IT
IN THEIR LEFT
HAND WHEN THEY
LEAVE THE CELL.

BAG WITH PERSONAL
BELONGINGS.
IT CONTAINS THE EMPTY
TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE,
BALLPOINT PEN,
AUTHORIZED BOOKS, ETC.
AND THEY TAKE IT WITH
THEM TO THE FACTORY
TO TURN IT IN.

CLIP

THE GO
AND SHOGI
BOARDS...

OH!

STAND
UP!

ROOM
ZOSF!

BEGIN
DEPARTURE OF
BUILDING.
WAAASHING!
CLEEEANING!
TIOVING!

DEPART!

CLICK
CLANG
CLANGGG
CLANGGG

WHEN THE GUYS ON THE
FLOOR ABOVE FORMED IN THE
HALL AND STARTED TO PACE
IT SOUNDED LIKE THE ROAR
OF MIKKO'S WEPPING DRAGON.

* FEATURE OF THE TORSAOU-DO
TEMPLES IN THE CITY OF MIKKO, JAPAN





YOU'RE USELESS!
CAN'T YOU SEE?



THEY TAKE YOU AWAY
IMMEDIATELY FOR
INTERROGATION.



IF YOU
ANSWER
LIKE THAT...

OH,
YEAH,
YEAH.

IN THESE
CASES...
IF YOU
ACT
HARD-
BOILED...



TWICE A WEEK
THERE'S A
MEDICAL VISIT.
THE CLEANER
ASKS ALL
THE FACTORY
INMATES IF THEY
WANT TO SEE A
DOCTOR.

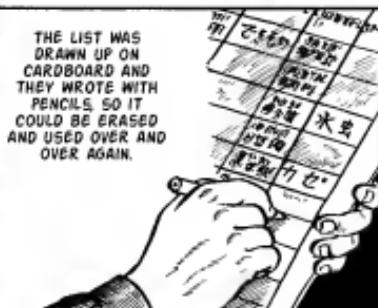
I'VE GOT
A COLD.

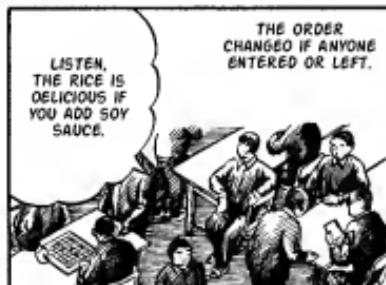
ANYONE
FOR THE
DOCTOR?

MEDICAL
CONSULTA-
SHUN,
MEDICAL
CONSULTA-
SHUN!

ON BATH DAYS TIME
FLIES BY BECAUSE
WORK IS FINISHED
EARLY SO WE HAVE
TIME TO WASH.

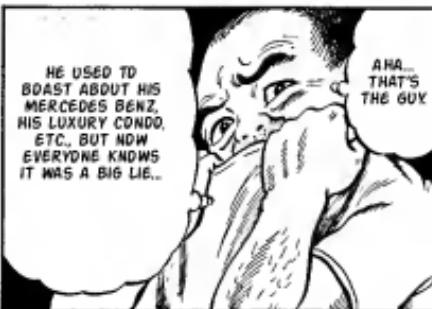
PLEASE





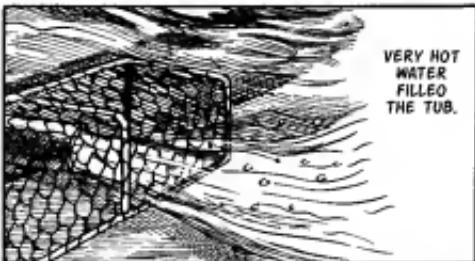












VERY HOT
WATER
FILLEO
THE TUB.

JOE BURNS MUST NOT
BE TOO LONG OR TOO
SHORT, BOTH SIDES
HAD TO BE SHOWN
TO HIM.



SLOP
SLOP
SLOP

THE BAG WITH PERSONAL
BELONGINGS WAS GIVEN TO
WHOMEVER WAS IN CHARGE
AS WE LEFT THE BATHING
ROOM. I HAD LEFT THREE
DAYS OINTMENT IN IT.



MONEY SPELLS FREEDOM

PRISON-
ISSUE
UNDER-
SHIRT L

PERSONAL
UNDER-
SHIRT

THE SHINING WHITE OF YOUR OWN
UNDERSHIRT PEEPING FROM BENEATH
THE INMATE'S GRAY CLOTHING MAKES
YOUR NECK SHINE SO YOU LOOK LIKE
A NICE BOY THIS IS A KEEN POINT
WITH SNAPPY DRESSERS.

PRISON-
ISSUE
SHORT-
SLEEVED
UNDERSHIRT
(FREE)

PERSONAL
CREWNECK
UNDERSHIRT
SIZE M
\$ 6.60

PRISON-
ISSUE
BOXERS
SIZE M
(FREE)

THEY'RE ALL
WRINKLED
AND ARE
VERY BAGGY.

PRISON-
ISSUE
BLACK
SOCKS
(FREE)

THEY DON'T
WEAR OR
TEAR, THEY'RE
STURDY AND
RESISTANT

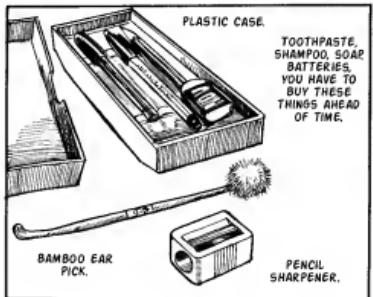
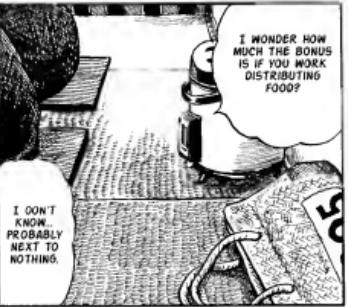
THEY HAVE LOTS
OF FUZZ
PRISON-
ISSUE

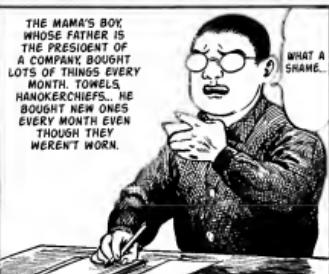
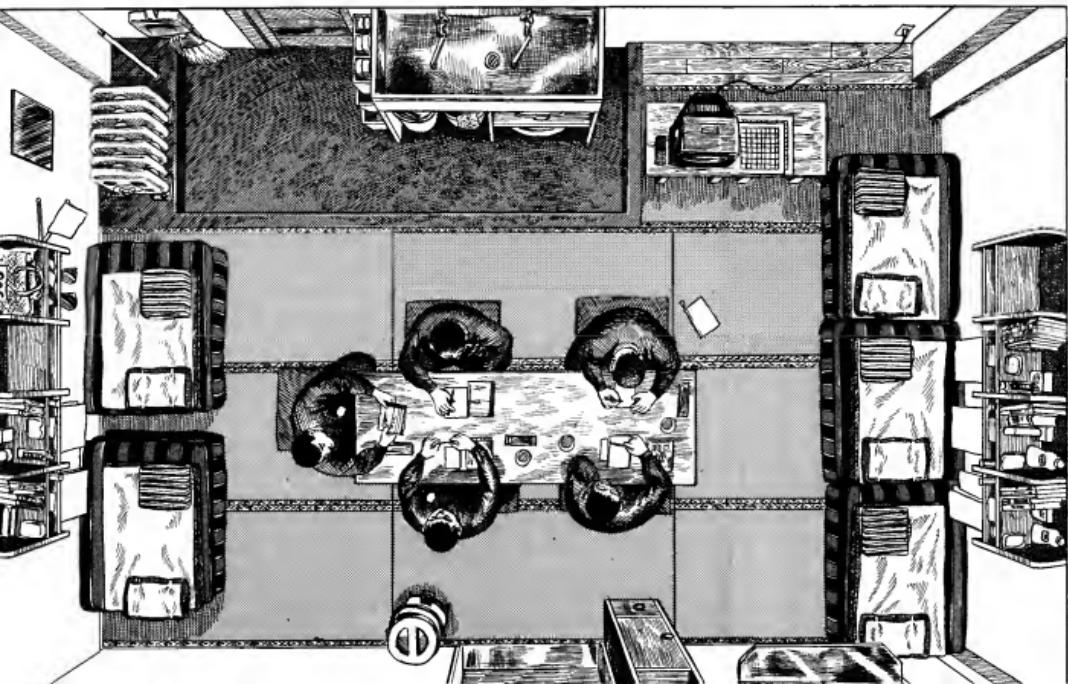
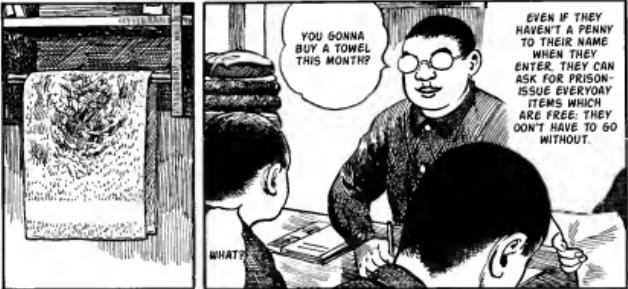
PERSONAL
STRIPED
BOXERS
SIZE M
\$ 9.90

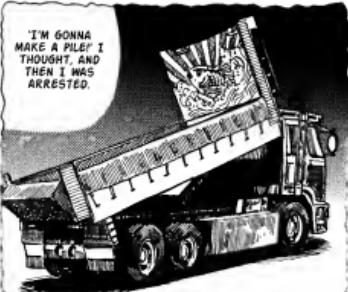
THE
PRISONERS
CAN CHOOSE
BETWEEN
BLACK AND
NAVY BLUE
SOCKS.
NO WHITE
OR OTHER
COLORS
ARE
ALLOWED.
NOR ARE
PATTERNS.

PERSONAL
NAVY BLUE
SOCKS
\$ 4.80









THERE ARE TEN LEVELS OF JOB POSITIONS FROM UNSKILLED WORKER TO PROFESSIONAL. IF THEY WORKED HARD THEY WERE PROMOTED AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED INCREASED. WHEN THE AUTHOR REACHED THE 9TH LEVEL HE EARNED ¥ 104 AND WAS ALLOWED TO SPEND ¥ 205.

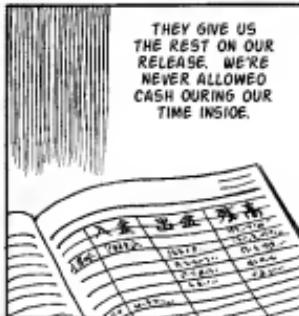
期間	等級	作業賞与金	使用限度額
2ヶ月	見習工	440 円	88 円
	"	723 "	145 "
2ヶ月	9等工	1,014 "	203 "
	"	1,191 "	238 "
2ヶ月	8等工	1,768 "	442 "
	"	1,779 "	445 "
2ヶ月	7等工	2,143 "	537 "
	"	2,444 "	611 "
4ヶ月	6等工	2,608 "	652 "
	"	2,625 "	656 "
	"	2,963 "	988 "
	"	3,244 "	1,081 "
4ヶ月	5等工	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,150 "	1,050 "
	"	3,519 "	1,172 "
4ヶ月	4等工	4,723 "	1,574 "
	"	4,723 "	1,574 "

IT TOOK TWO MONTHS PER LEVEL TO GO FROM THE 9TH TO THE 7TH, FROM THE 8TH TO THE 4TH IT TOOK FOUR MONTHS EACH, AND AFTER THAT IT TOOK 8 MONTHS. "IF YOU WORK FOR ME, YOU CAN SPEND ANY MONEY. I DON'T WASTE ANY MONEY. BY THE TIME YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOU CAN BUY A HOUSE OR TWO (MY HOME) RIGHT AWAY, THANK GOD" (ACCORDING TO MR. A).





YEAH, I
REALLY
SHOULD
THIS TIME.



THERE'S A LIGHTNESS IN THIS JOINT YOU NEVER FEEL OUTSIDE OF HERE.

IT'S GREAT. THE EATS'RE FREE.

RENT, GAS, WATER, ELECTRICITY BILLS AND SO ON. WE'RE TOTALLY FREE FROM ALL THOSE PAYMENTS WHICH INvariably PILE UP EVERY MONTH.

BUT... IT'S JUST THAT HERE YOU'RE FREE FROM THINGS.

LAST TIME I GOT HOME I FOUND THE PAYMENT NOTICE FROM THE NATIONAL PENSION INSURANCE...

WHAT?

OOF! I FINALLY PAID IT. IT'S AN IRRITATION BUT AT LEAST NOW IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH.

THE OVERQUE NOTICE FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

(*)THE SIGN SHOWS THE END OF THE WORD "BANK"

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THESE COLLECTION AGENCIES. THE AUTHOR HAS ALREADY BEEN HOUNDOED THREE TIMES BY THESE UNPLEASANT ENTITIES.

SHIT... WHAT KIND OF ABUSE OF POOR PEOPLE IS THIS ANYHOW?...

WH, WHAT? I JUST SENT A TRANSFER!

WHEN I GOT OUT OF JAIL I RECEIVED Y 99,025 IN PAY.

PEOPLE IN THE JOMON ERA WERE FREE IN THIS REGARD.

THE INMATES' CLOTHING IS DARK GRAY. THERE'S ONE CHEST POCKET. INSIDE IT ARE A PAPER TISSUE AND A CLOTH HANKERCHIEF.

THE PLASTIC TAG HANGS FROM A BUTTON ON A RUBBERBAND



WASH TAG ATTACHED WITH A PIECE OF THREAD. FACTORY'S AND INMATE'S NUMBERS. PANTS ARE KEPT UP TIED WITH STRING.

THE LABEL IS SEWN ON BADLY. THE NAME ON THE INSIDE IS GRIMY FROM OILY SCALP.



THE "NO ACCIDENTS" BADGE IS BUTTONED ON



DAYS OFF FROM WORK



THE PANTS ONLY HAVE ONE BACK POCKET.

RUBBER SLIPPERS, GRAYISH BLUE COLOR, WITH NUMBER.







GOOD CELL (YELLOW).	CHOSSEN CELL (RED PLASTIC).
NO PLAQUE.	優 良

TV ALLOWED TV ALLOWED
FORBIDDEN EVERY OTHER FROM 7 TO
IN THIS CELL DAY 9 PM. EVERY
DAY.

PLACES FOR LYING DOWN
(ILL OMIT THE EXPLANATION)

TELEVISION CHANNEL.

RED : FOOD DISTRIBUTOR THE BLUE PLASTIC MARKER SHOWS WHO'S IN CHARGE OF CARRYING BAG WITH PERSONAL OBJECTS.

FACTORY NUMBER 5	電 電 電 電 電	A
	62 124 134 222 128	/
	竹 田 笠 花 小	B
	伏 边 山 輪 屋	4

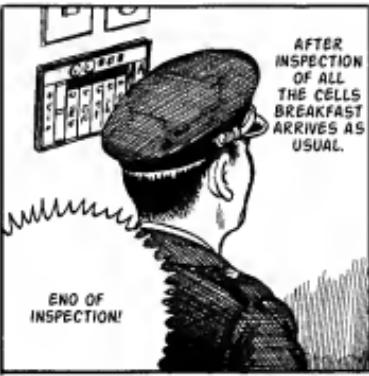
SHARING RAZORS IS FORBIDDEN SO THEY FIND OUT RIGHT AWAY IF ANYONE WITHOUT THE STICKER IS USING ONE.

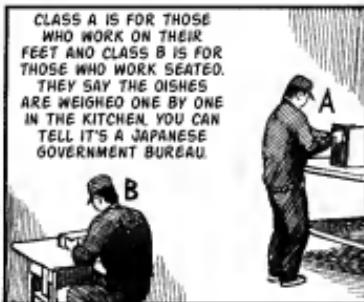
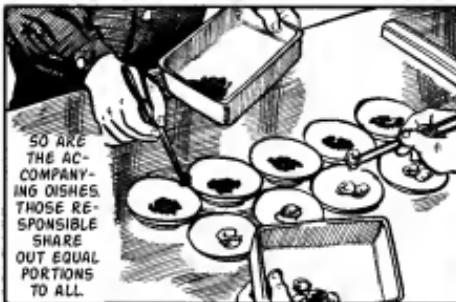
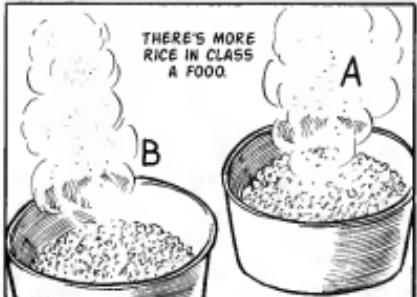
STICKER PERMITTING USE OF SHAVER.

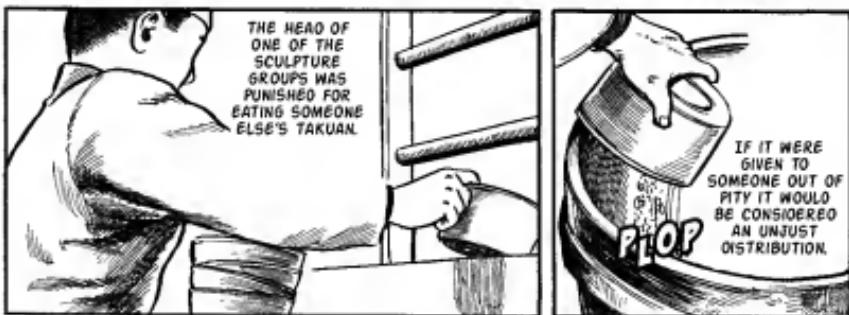
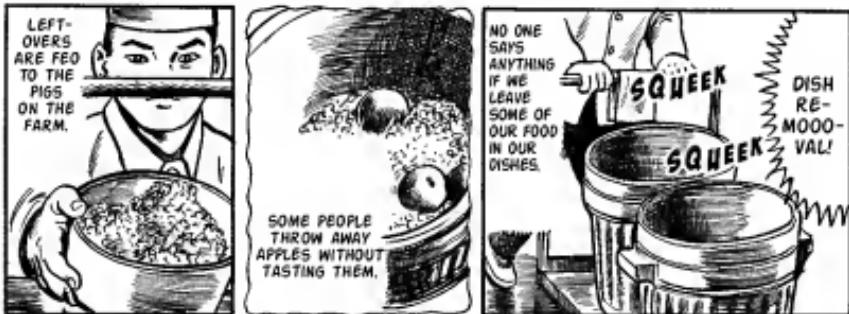
NUMBER AND NAME.
128 小屋

TURNS ROTATE EVERY FRIDAY ATTACHED WITH MAGNETS.

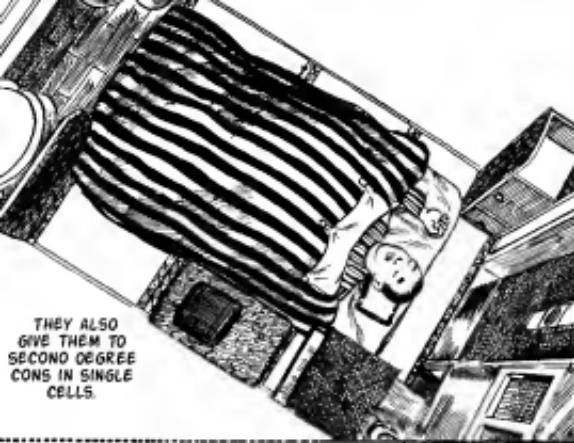
(1) CLASS OF FOOD AND NUMBER OF RATIONS.











THEY ALSO
GIVE THEM TO
SECOND DEGREE
CONS IN SINGLE
CELLS.



IF THERE ARE TWO SECOND
DEGREE INMATES, THERE ARE
TWO LOCKERS AND THEY CAN
ALSO CONTINUE USING
THE WALL SHELF.
THE LOCKERS ARE ALWAYS
PLACED NEXT TO THE DOOR.



COME ON, BRING US
THE COOKIES THAT
ARE STASHED WITH
THE SOCKS.

SECOND DEGREE
CONS HAVE IT
GOOD, I'D LIKE TO
BE ONE SOON.



WILL THEY
GIVE OUT
'ALFORT'
COOKIES
THIS TIME?

THOSE WITH
CHOCOLATE...



AAAH...
I'D LOVE
SOME CHOCO-
LA-

SECOND
DEGREE
CONS HAD A GET-
TOGETHER
EVERY
MONTH, THIRD
DEGREE
CONS ONCE
EVERY OTHER
MONTH.

WHEN
THEY GET
TOGETHER
THEY WATCH
A MOVIE
ON VIDEO
AND HAVE
COOKIES AND
A CANNED
DRINK.

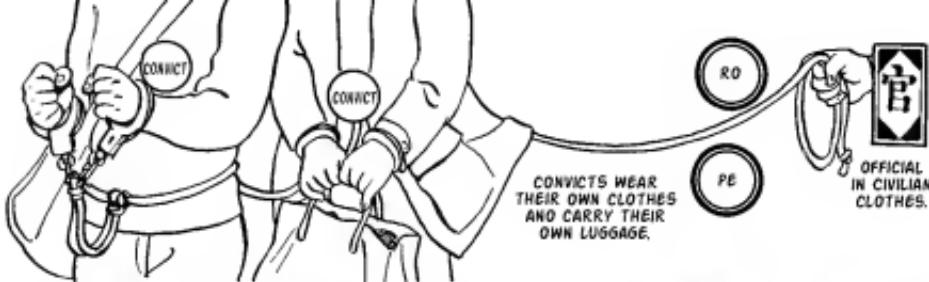


IF I'D DONE
ANY OF
THESE THINGS
PREVIOUSLY
I'D HAVE BEEN
SENT TO THE
PUNISHMENT
CELL RIGHT
AWAY.



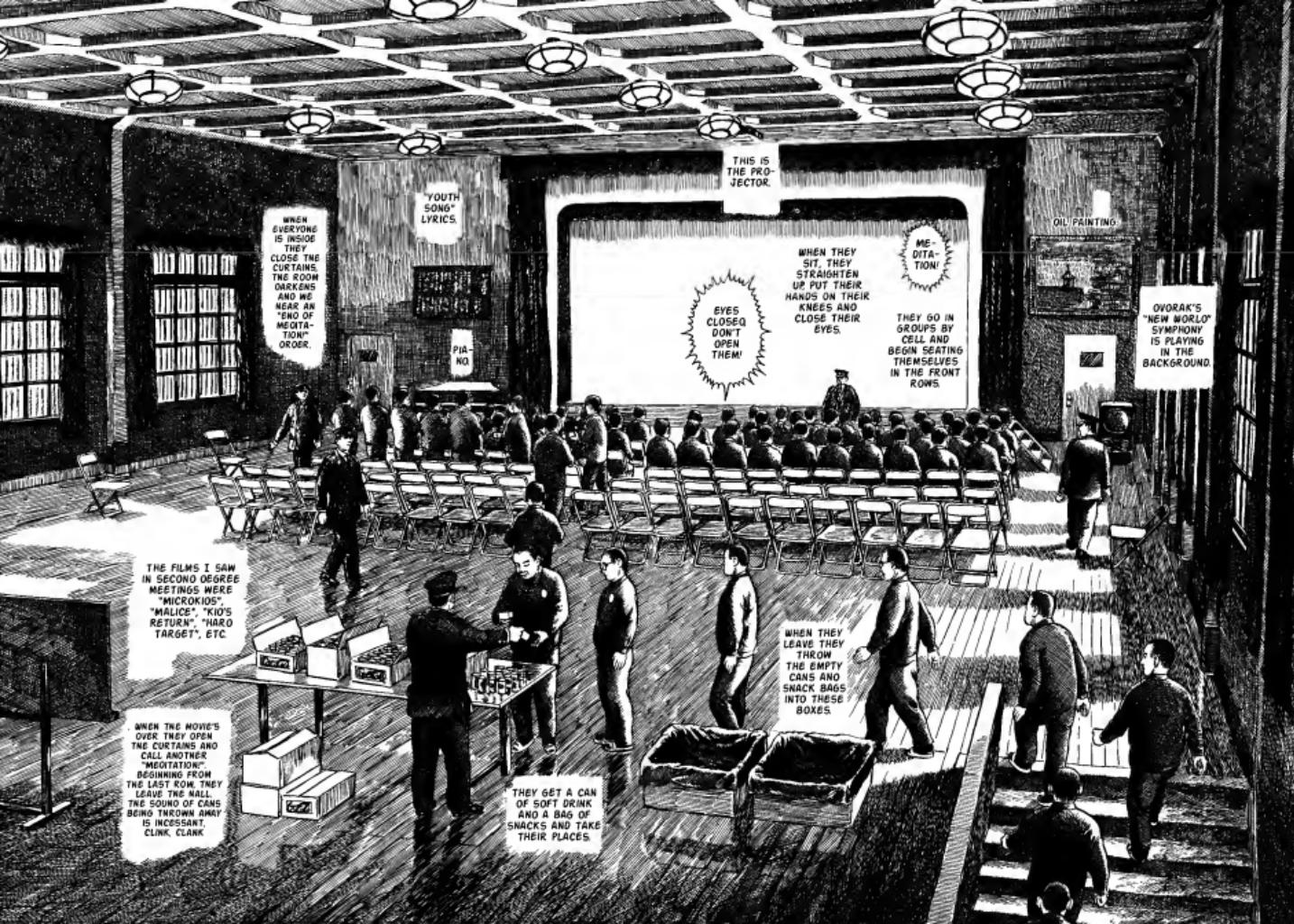
(*) NORTH-WESTERN BULLET TRAIN











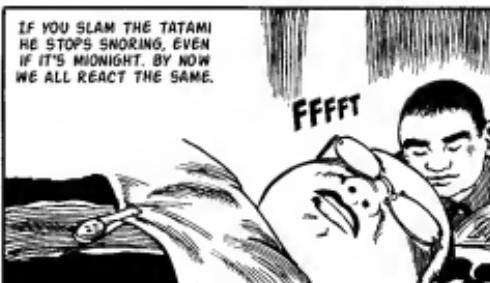
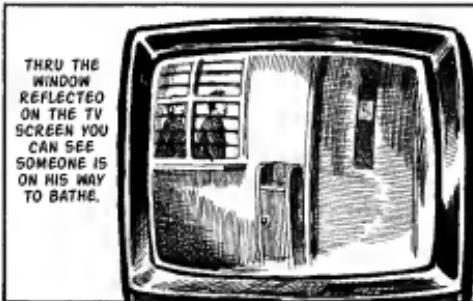




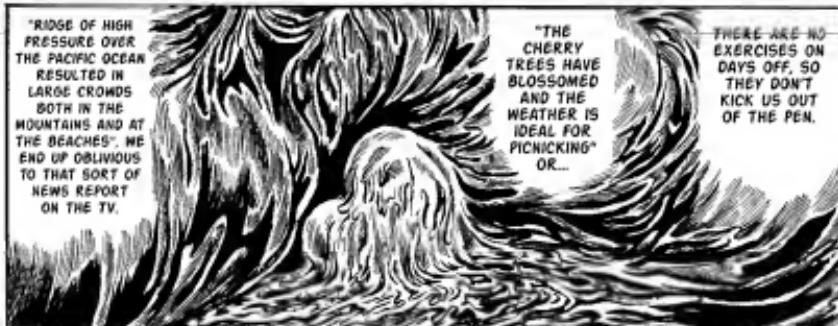














Commentary

By Tomofusa Kure

published is due to political disputes and human resentment.

Kazuchi Hanawa's series about life in jail is unique because it is indifferent to these matters everyone else decries. On the other hand, neither does he give the impression that imprisonment has made him repent of his offense. He may have learnt a lesson but he doesn't seem particularly remorseful. Or, perhaps he hasn't learned a lesson, but it looks like he now feels that this penchant for guns is silly. Since this craze was born out of his absorption in his work it was easily cured. In his case having served a sentence has been therapeutic.

What we have here is a fondness for recording details and a rare, sentimental confession which is neither contrite nor comforting. This is something new to writings about jail. Hanawa's drawings are beautiful and elegant from the first line. You can see the relation to the pen drawings of a Kashō Takabatake or Hikozō Itō. He has reproduced the conditions of life in jail with fine pen lines. It is forbidden to make sketches inside so they have been drawn from memory but they are extraordinarily real. His talent as a draughtsman is supported by this ability to memorize visually. At the same time, a number of vignettes serve to temper the

realism of these graphic descriptions. These are his caricatural self-portraits and sentimental depictions of himself. They are amusing and you feel his loneliness but it is not the amusement or loneliness of other inmates. This is what Hanawa observes when he looks at himself no matter where he is, inside or outside of jail.

Most prisoners miss their families outside and it is their relationship to them that marks their sense of loneliness or helps them to see the amusing aspects of life in jail. However Hanawa's family does not appear in his works as a counterbalance to his situation. As he has said on other occasions, he was not raised in a happy family environment. Neither has he formed his own family. That is precisely why the amusement and loneliness he feels are absolute and universal. This is a common theme in all of Hanawa's works.

Up to now Kazuchi Hanawa expressed this through works of fiction. The fantastic world of tales from the Middle Ages were his favorite setting. A twist of fate caused him to be locked away for three years in jail, which is a very real place. There too this genius conjured his amusement and loneliness through his works. And that is how this exceptional record of life in prison was achieved.

On December 8th, 1994, Kazuchi Hanawa was arrested by the Hokkaido police for violating the law on firearms. He was caught in the hills trying out some remodeled guns he had acquired after his liking for collecting model guns had increased.

All genial comic book artists have their quirks. There are a few happy artists who lead well rounded lives because their creativity affords them an escape valve, but that is not the case with Kazuchi Hanawa. The singularity of his works caused him to be unconventional as became manifest in his penchant for firearms. In early spring 1995, I appeared before the Sapporo District Court together with Yukihiro Abe as character witnesses in the trial of Kazuchi Hanawa. Abe stated that, from a psychiatric point of view, there was no cause to believe Hanawa would backslide and I, as a critic, declared that his work was internationally acclaimed and as such it would be advisable to treat him with leniency. After all, it was just an artist's eccentricity. It was his first offense and, of course, he had no previous record. I had asked some friends of mine who are lawyers for their opinion beforehand and they were all optimistic and had anticipated a suspended sentence. (Legal term denoting a period during which the convicted person is subject to vigilance and not obliged to enter into prison if he commits no crimes). I believed in that outcome too.

But against all expectation the sentence was severe. He was sentenced to three years in prison without probation. Maybe because circumstances were bad at the time. With the fall of the USSR, Russian military discipline became lax and some of the hard-up troops began to smuggle weapons along the Hokkaido coast. In the city of Sapporo you often saw "Cease Illegal Firearms Ownership" posters. So it looks like they handed down this sentence to set an example.

The defense appealed but was rejected. Right from the beginning Kazuchi Hanawa himself was against appealing and entered prison right away. I sometimes wrote to him while he was in jail. We aren't especially close friends. I'd known him for some time but he was an artist and I was a critic. Nevertheless I wrote because I didn't want to see his talent destroyed.

Letters full of trivial commonplaces bring the most cheer to a prisoner. I knew by experience as I had written such letters as a student. Luckily I wasn't jailed long enough to receive very many but I had written quite a few to those who were locked up. When I got out my friends told me mine were the best letters. I remarked on everyday things like the weather, the books I read, tips

for keeping in good shape, or, sometimes, I even joked. I never wrote telling them to cheer up because the heat of the struggle was gripping all Japan or whathaveyou. Perhaps because these things were a lot less important.

Kazuchi Hanawa answered me honestly from within jail. He wrote to me about authorized books he had read, the weekly menu... he too only wrote about trifles. That reassured me. If he became too agitated in jail he might break down along the way or end up totally unable to adjust to reality once on the outside again. The best thing is for one to do time quietly.

In February 1998 "Ax" began to come out on a monthly basis. This magazine was founded by some writers who had left "Garo" magazine, published by Seirindo. Hanawa began a series in the first issue of "Ax". The first two chapters were stories about the jail where the accused are held before trial, from the third on they were about life in prison itself.

It was funny he should have caught me unawares. He was telling stories furiously about things that were inconsequential. He talked about breakfast, authorized books, wanting to smoke... It was the same as the letters he wrote me. The only difference was that instead of only words, now there were drawings. But this difference is enormous. The letters were simply news about his life while the comic strips are extraordinary records about life in jail.

Up to now various persons have written several types of books about life in prison. Since it is an uncommon experience those who have been through it have wanted to leave a record and those who have not experienced it can find out what it is like through these writings. There are such classic works as Dostoevsky's "The House of the Dead" or Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol" and there are "contemporary entertainment" type books such as Jōji Abe's "Some People never learn inside the walls". For the most part, however, writings that criticize the oppression that exists in prisons and denounce the tyranny of the guards are not very memorable. They may not be in the form of books but you can find articles of this type in leftist magazines or pamphlets. They are invariably tedious. That prisons are oppressive is to be expected and neither is it surprising to learn that guards are harsh. Whether or not that is just, or whether improvements are possible, is debatable but it is their nature to be oppressive places and for guards to behave so. The world may change in any which way but we can't expect jails to be luxury hotels or for guards to act as the servants of the inmates. Nevertheless the fact that so many books denouncing jail conditions are